

## PRESS RELEASE

A new book tying in with an exhibition of the same name (4<sup>th</sup> October – 24 November 2019) at the Bodleian Libraries:

## NOW AND THEN: England 1970 - 2015

Daniel Meadows

4<sup>th</sup> October 2019, £25.00

**“My rule of thumb when doing documentary work is always to try to treat people as individuals, not types.” Daniel Meadows**

Daniel Meadows is a pioneer of contemporary British documentary practice. His photographs and audio recordings made over forty-five years, capture the life of England's 'great ordinary'. Challenging the status quo by working collaboratively, he has fashioned from his many encounters a nation's story both magical and familiar.

His new book covers the full range of his ground-breaking projects, drawing on his archives now held at the Bodleian Library. Fiercely independent, Meadows devised many of his creative processes. He ran a free portrait studio in Manchester's Moss Side in 1972, and then travelled 10,000 miles making a national portrait from his converted double-decker bus called the *Free Photographic Omnibus*, a project he revisited a quarter of a century later.

Alongside the portraits of people, Daniel Meadows also portrays the landscape of England, then and now, and the work people did, many now long-forgotten trades such as the engineer for a steam driven cotton mill and the steeplejack.

At the turn of the millennium Meadows adopted new 'kitchen table' technologies to make digital stories: 'multimedia sonnets from the people', he called them. He sometimes returned to those he had photographed, listening to how things were and how they had changed. Through their unique voices he finds a moving and insightful commentary on life in Britain and how much it has changed since he began his life's work.

Then and now. Now and then.

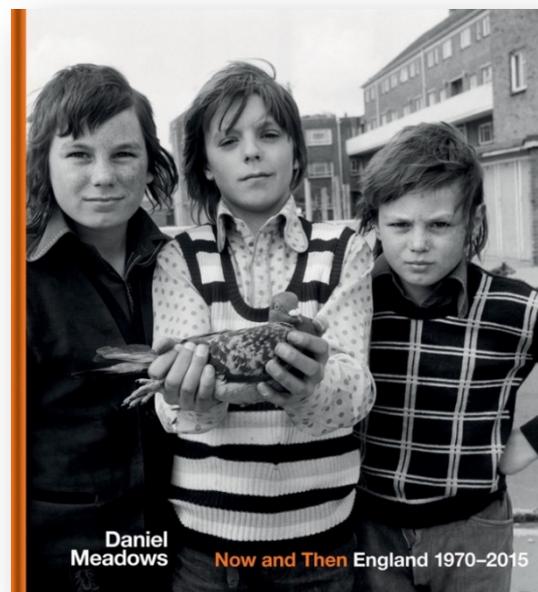
**'If George Orwell was the modern writer of the people, then Daniel Meadows is very much the modern British photographer of the people.'** Elaine Constantine

**Daniel Meadows'** photographs have been exhibited widely with solo shows at the Institute of Contemporary Arts London (1975), Camerawork Galley (1978), the Photographers' Gallery (1987) and a touring retrospective from the National Science and Media Museum (2011). Group shows include Tate Britain (2007) and Hayward Gallery Touring (2008).

**For further information or to speak to Daniel Meadows, please contact:**  
Emma O'Bryen, Publicity, Mob: 07505 659641, T: 020 7619 0098, e: [emma@obryen.co.uk](mailto:emma@obryen.co.uk)



**Bodleian Library**  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About the exhibition

*Daniel Meadows: Now & Then* celebrates the work of one of Britain's foremost photographers who worked from the 1970s onward, authentically capturing British life. The exhibition is comprised of 17 pairs of portraits which depict the same people 25 years apart (1970s – late 1990s), taken as part of Meadows' *Free Photographic Omnibus* project in the 1970s for which Meadows originally toured the UK in a double-decker bus capturing the lives of ordinary people. The display also features 16 short films about his subjects as well as giant news clippings showing how Meadows reached out via local media to find his subjects. The exhibition marks the recent and important gift of Daniel Meadows' photographic archive to the Bodleian Libraries. **Daniel Meadows: Now & Then, Weston Library, 4 October – 24 November 2019.** For more information visit [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson)

### About Bodleian Library Publishing

Bodleian Publishing has a diverse list of gift, general interest and scholarly books on a wide range of subjects drawn from or related to the Library's rich collections of manuscripts, rare books, maps, postcards and other printed ephemera. Details at [www.bodleianshop.co.uk](http://www.bodleianshop.co.uk).

### About the Bodleian Libraries

The Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford is the largest university library system in the United Kingdom. It includes the principal University library – the Bodleian Library – which has been a legal deposit library for 400 years; as well as 27 libraries across Oxford including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, over 80,000 e-journals and outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera. Members of the public can explore the collections via the Bodleian's online image portal at [digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) or by visiting the exhibition galleries in the Bodleian's Weston Library. For more information, visit [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

### Now and Then: England 1970 – 2015

Daniel Meadows

160 pages

259 x 237mm

4 colour and 105 black & white illustrations

ISBN: 9781851245338

£25.00, Hardback